

Military Resistance 11A4



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January 3, 2013 By MATTHEW ROSENBERG, New York Times [Excerpts]. Sangar Rahimi and Jawad Sukhanyar contributed reporting from Kabul, and an employee of The New York Times from Asadabad.

KABUL, Afghanistan — It was only after the young Afghan soldier’s hatred of Americans had grown murderous that he reached out to the Taliban.

The soldier, named simply Mahmood, 22, said that in May he told the insurgents of his plan to shoot Americans the next time they visited the outpost where he was based in northeastern Afghanistan.

He asked the Taliban to take him in if he escaped.

The Taliban veterans he contacted were skeptical.

Despite their public insistence that they employ vast ranks of infiltrators within the Afghan Army and the police, they acknowledged that many of the insider attacks they take credit for start as offers by angry young men like Mahmood. They had seen many fail, or lose their nerve before even starting, and they figured that Mahmood, too, would prove more talk than action or would die in the attempt.

“Even the Taliban didn’t think I would be able to do this,” Mr. Mahmood said in an interview.

He proved them wrong days later, on the morning of May 11, when he opened fire on American trainers who had gone to the outpost in the mountains of Kunar Province. One American was killed and two others were wounded.

Mahmood escaped in the ensuing confusion, and he remains free in Kunar after the Taliban welcomed him into their ranks.

It was, he said, his “proudest day.”

“It’s a game changer on all levels,” said First Sgt. Joseph Hissong, an American who helped fight off an insider attack by Afghan soldiers that left two men in his unit dead.

Cultural clashes have contributed to some of the insider attacks, with Afghan soldiers and police officers becoming enraged by what they see as rude and abusive behavior by Americans close to them. In some cases, the abusive or corrupt behavior of Afghan officers prompts the killer to go after Americans, who are seen as backing the local commanders.

But behind it all, many senior coalition and Afghan officials are now concluding that after nearly 12 years of war, the view of foreigners held by many Afghans has come to mirror that of the Taliban. Hope has turned into hatred, and some will find a reason to act on those feelings.

The result is that, although the Taliban have successfully infiltrated the security forces before, they do not always have to.

Soldiers and police officers will instead go to them, as was the case with Mr. Mahmood, who offered a glimpse of the thinking behind the violence in one of the few interviews conducted with Afghans who have committed insider attacks.

“I have intimate friends in the army who have the same opinion as I do,” Mr. Mahmood said. “We used to sit and share our hearts’ tales.”

But he said he did not tell any of his compatriots of his plan to shoot Americans, fearing that it could leak out and derail his attack.

The interviews with Mr. Mahmood and his Taliban contacts were conducted in recent weeks by telephone and through written responses to questions.

There are also two videos that show Mr. Mahmood with the Taliban: an insurgent-produced propaganda video available on jihadi Web sites, and an interview conducted by a local journalist in Kunar.

Though Mr. Mahmood at times contradicted himself, falling into stock Taliban commentary about how it had always been his ambition to kill foreigners, much of what he said mirrored the timelines and versions of events provided by Taliban fighters who know him, as well as Afghan officials familiar with his case.

Mr. Mahmood grew up in Tajikan, a small village in the southern province of Helmand. The area around his village remains dominated by the Taliban.

Even Afghans from other parts of Helmand are hesitant to travel to Tajikan for fear of the Taliban.

Col. Khudaidad, an Afghan officer who runs the Afghan National Army's recruitment center in Helmand, said Mr. Mahmood enlisted about four years ago.

His story, up to that point, would be familiar to many Americans: He was a poor boy from a family of eight who worked sweeping up in a tailor shop and was looking for a better life. The army offered steady pay, reading and writing lessons, and a chance to see something beyond the mud hovels in which he was born and raised.

"He barely had a beard," recalled Colonel Khudaidad, who also uses only one name, in an interview. "He looked so innocent that you wouldn't believe what he did if you only saw him then."

Mr. Mahmood says he was anything but an innocent. He grew up being told that Americans, Britons and Jews "are the enemies of our country and our religion," he said.

But until May, he worked and fought alongside foreigners without incident. The change came in the Ghaziabad District of Kunar, where he ended up after the start of 2012, he said.

The area is thick with Taliban, along with Islamists from Pakistan.

Many residents sympathized with the insurgents and often complained to Afghan soldiers about the abuses committed by Americans and the failure of Afghan soldiers to control much of anything beyond the perimeter of their own outpost, Mr. Mahmood said. The Taliban, they glorified.

Listening to villagers, Mr. Mahmood became convinced that the foreigners had killed too many Afghans and insulted the Prophet Muhammad too many times.

He wanted to be driving them out, not helping them stay. The villagers' stories "strengthened my desire to kill Americans with my own fingers," he said.

He contacted the Taliban through a local sympathizer. He did not want help — he only asked the insurgents "not to shoot me" if he managed to escape after attacking the Americans, which he told them would happen in a few days.

He was on guard duty when American soldiers arrived at the outpost on May 11. He waited for a few of them to shed their body armor and put down their weapons, and then he opened fire. (New regulations require American trainers to keep their armor on and weapons at hand when visiting Afghan bases.)

The Afghan and American soldiers initially thought the attack was coming from the outside. They "didn't even think that someone within the Afghan Army might have opened fire on Americans," he said. "I took advantage of this confusion and fled."

He claimed to have hit six Americans. "I don't know how many were killed, though I hope all were," he said. The coalition said one soldier was killed and two were wounded.

The Taliban welcomed him as a hero. He was given the title "ghazi," an honorific for someone who helps drive off non-Muslim invaders. "They let me keep the same rifle I used to kill Americans."

In August, the Taliban featured Mr. Mahmood in a propaganda video, calling him “Ghazi of Ghaziabad.” The video shows Mr. Mahmood, smiling broadly, being draped with garlands and showered with praise from local elders, Taliban fighters and cheering crowds of men and boys.

The following month, the American-led military coalition announced that it had killed Mr. Mahmood in an airstrike. The coalition now says it was mistaken and that Mr. Mahmood is still with the Taliban in Kunar.

Villagers and officials in Helmand backed up that account, saying Mr. Mahmood had been in touch with relatives since the report of his death.

Mr. Mahmood said he spoke only to his mother, and that “she was happy.”

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Danish Soldier Killed In Afghanistan

Jan 3 AP

COPENHAGEN, Denmark -- An elite Danish soldier has been killed in southern Afghanistan by an explosive device, military officials said Thursday.

The blast is said to have happened late Wednesday or early Thursday and came as members of Denmark’s Ranger and Frogmen units were on a joint patrol with an Afghan police’s elite unit.

The Ranger was airlifted by helicopter to a field hospital but his life couldn’t be saved. Next of kin have been notified. The soldier was from the northern Denmark city of Aalborg. His name or rank were not immediately released.

Denmark has about 600 troops in Afghanistan, mostly based in the volatile Helmand province. More than 40 Danish soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since Denmark joined the U.S.-led coalition in 2002.

**POLITICIANS REFUSE TO HALT THE
BLOODSHED**

**THE TROOPS HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THE
WAR**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

Entre los individuos, como entre las naciones, el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz.

-- Benito Juárez

Remembering Jerry Tucker:

“An Outspoken Dissident, Tucker Urged An Alternate Course For American Unions, One With A Broader Progressive Message And Greater Empowerment Of Rank And File Workers”

“Tucker Resuscitated The Work-To-Rule Strategy, In Which Workers Frustrate Employers By Slowing Down Operations All The While Technically Hewing To The Letter Of Their Contract”

“He Died In His Hometown Of St. Louis On October 19 Of Pancreatic Cancer, At Age 73”



Jerry Tucker

[Thanks to Dennis Serdel, Vietnam 1967-68 (one tour) Light Infantry, Americal Div. 11th Brigade; United Auto Workers GM Retiree, who sent this in.]

January 1, 2013 by Alec MacGillis, The New Republic [Excerpts]

It has been a dispiriting year for organized labor.

Michigan's Republican legislature and governor rushed a bill through the lame-duck session, making the birthplace of the United Auto Workers a "right-to-work" state.

The move has inspired conservative legislators in several other states to follow suit, raising the possibility that a majority of the 50 states will soon be right-to-work, allowing workers to opt out of paying dues to unions even as they benefit from union contracts, and thereby further weakening an institution that has seen its membership drop from a third of the private sector workforce 60 years ago to 7 percent today.

Few have fought harder to keep labor from this plight than Jerry Tucker.

An outspoken dissident, Tucker urged an alternate course for American unions for more than three decades, one with a broader progressive message and greater empowerment of rank and file workers.

Despite his repeated successes in the field of action, Tucker was largely sidelined by the union establishment. Labor could desperately use Tucker's guidance today, but it's too late:

He died in his hometown of St. Louis on October 19 of pancreatic cancer, at age 73.

Tucker, who was born in 1938, bridged worlds apart. A bearish and bearded man, his blue collar roots were impeccable: He was the son of a tool-and-die worker and got his start with the United Auto Workers doing factory work for General Motors and Carter Carburetor. But he was also an unapologetic intellectual. He got a degree from Southern Illinois University; spent some early years hanging around the Beat scene in San Francisco's North Beach; and, in the final chapter of his career, gave a big speech at the Sorbonne.

"Jerry was in some ways the Lord Byron of our movement -- this deeply committed, eloquent activist and fighter who had this impact on everyone he came in contact with," said Bill Fletcher, Jr. a fellow unionist, now with the American Federation of Government Employees, who knew Tucker for 20 years.

Raised in a segregated city, Tucker married a black woman and was the only white player in St. Louis' Negro Baseball Sandlot League. "I rarely thought of Jerry as a white guy, and I don't say this just because he was married to an African-American woman," Fletcher said.

"The fight against racism was part of who Jerry was. He was always quite self-conscious, and I mean this in a good way, of the privileged status he has as a white male in our society."

By the mid-'70s, Tucker was working in the UAW's Washington office, watching as the tide started to turn against labor.

Deindustrialization was accelerating, the business lobby was gaining might, and, even with Jimmy Carter in the White House and Democrats in control of Congress, pro-union reforms of labor laws were watered down and ultimately defeated (by two votes in the Senate, as Carter stood by). Pro-management momentum grew stronger with the election of Ronald Reagan and his crushing of the air traffic-controllers union, prompting many labor leaders to drop back into the defensive, accommodationist posture that has prevailed for most of the years since.

Against this stood Tucker.

He didn't care much for the Beltway – “he was definitely not your quintessential Washington labor guy,” said Joe Uehlein, who worked in the AFL-CIO's industrial division -- and was glad to be dispatched back to Missouri, where he led a come-from-behind effort in 1978 to defeat a referendum to make his home state right-to-work. The referendum was leading in the polls by a 2-1 margin when he took charge of the opposition; he assembled a broad coalition, reaching beyond labor to churches, farmers and women's groups, and defeated the measure by a 3-2 margin.

“It was true mobilization – having unionists explain why unions mattered, go out into the community, with precinct captains all around the state,” said Nelson Lichtenstein, a University of California-Santa Barbara historian. The victory left Missouri as a haven of union-friendly territory on the edge of an otherwise hostile South, and helped preserve it as a political swing state until just recently.

He brought the same lesson to UAW showdowns in the 1980s, working as assistant director for the region stretching from Missouri to Texas.

Seeing how ineffective strikes were becoming -- employers were more than happy to take a strike and bring in replacements -- Tucker resuscitated the work-to-rule strategy, in which workers frustrate employers by slowing down operations all the while technically hewing to the letter of their contract.

Work-to-rule appealed to Tucker because its success depended on the full understanding and empowerment of the entire workforce. In the most practical terms, this meant getting workers to grasp the “reverse engineering” of plant operations in order to identify the bottlenecks that would confound production without breaking the contract.

At a time of precious few victories for unions, Tucker's approach succeeded at one plant after another, two of which were documented in an AFL-CIO manual on the “Inside Game.”

“We would organize a communications network on the shop floor, a 1 to 10 ratio, so everyone's in the loop,” recalled Uehlein. “It would be putting out word for all different kinds of actions... And it did catch on in a pretty big way.”

At one of the victorious sites, the 500-worker Moog Auto Plant in St. Louis, managers expecting a conventional showdown shut off the power the night that the union's contract expired in 1981.

But at Tucker's direction, employees reported for work the next morning and launched a six-month internal-pressure campaign: a "solidarity committee" came up with work-to-rule tactics and on-the-job protests, workers contributed a little from each paycheck to support colleagues who were fired or disciplined, and workers, white and black alike, skipped work January 15 to object to the company's refusal to recognize the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

As the "Inside Game" manual recounts, the campaign reached its peak when several hundred tradesmen walked out in protest of supervisors' refusal to deal with smoke and chloride fumes.

Management finally came back to the table with a 36 percent pay increase over 40 months – and recognition of MLK Day.

Word started to get around about Tucker's success.

As his obituary in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch put it, "He said he had never lost a work-to-rule campaign, never failed to win a fair contract, and always got illegally fired activists their jobs back with back pay."

But this approach also represented a challenge to union leadership.

Whereas the traditional strike depended on the top-down command of union leaders, a robustly-deployed inside game depended on the engagement of workers, who knew the day-to-day operations of the workplace the best and had a better sense of how to confound them than their union superiors did. T

his was precisely why Tucker advocated for this approach: It was hugely empowering for workers to come up with their own tactics. Invariably, it made them more supportive of major actions--more willing to "up the ante," as Tucker liked to say.

Not all union bureaucrats were willing to surrender that much control to the rank and file, though, which may explain why Tucker struggled to bring his approach to the national level -- to broaden it across the UAW, whose leadership he saw falling into demoralizing complacency under the guise of labor-management cooperation as the Big 3's industry share and union activism faded in tandem.

Tucker put himself forward for regional director at the 1986 UAW convention and was on the verge of winning when, as In These Times' obituary recounts, "the union's long-dominant administration caucus brought to the convention two union officers from a small Texas local who had not been elected as delegates to cast the deciding votes against him.

Tucker challenged the election, and the Labor Department successfully sued to overturn it. He won when the balloting was held again in 1988, but a year later the administration caucus poured enormous effort into a campaign against him, and he lost."

In 1992, he ran for president of the union as part of the insurrectionist, rank-and-file based New Directions reform movement.

Fletcher, who reluctantly turned down Tucker's invitation to be his campaign manager, recalls the vision: "He said to me that there needs to be a labor reformation...He was not simply talking about more militancy, he was simply talking about better tactics, he was talking about a rethinking of the role and mission of the union movement...It meant the centrality of the member...The rank and file needed real education, not simply training on filing grievances but helping people develop a progressive world view. Labor needed to be outspoken on a broader range of issues that went beyond the workplace."

Tucker lost the long-shot bid, and was officially persona non grata. "He told me, 'you're going to get the word that we can't talk anymore,'" recalled Uehlein. "The word came down very hard."

But his reputation had been established and his lone-wolf services were enlisted -- often over the objections of union higher-ups -- for a range of battles, most notably at the giant Staley agriculture processing plant in Decatur, Ill in the early 1990s.

It was an epic showdown, with teargas deployed against worker protests. After first trying the work-to-rule approach, Tucker deployed a "corporate campaign" after the company locked out workers in 1993 -- putting pressure on big Staley customers such as Miller beer, which responded to the union's pressure by dropping Staley as a supplier. Tucker dispatched "road warriors" across the country to make the case for the workers' cause and why it mattered to everyone else and raise money for the locked-out workers.

But to no avail. Staley's owners, the huge British sugar conglomerate Tate & Lyle, wore the union down over time, aided by a lack of resolve at the upper levels of the newly merged international that housed the Staley workers. When workers voted to end the lockout after 30 months, with the corporate campaign on the verge of persuading Pepsi to drop Staley but with union higher-ups urging resolution, only 110 of 760 workers got their jobs back.

Meanwhile, Tucker had been taking on lower-profile fights for unions like the newspaper guild unit at the Post-Dispatch, where he was called in after the Pulitzer company hired anti-union lawyers to break the guild. There was no teargas here, but the tactics were similar -- doing everything possible to get the broader St. Louis community to understand why the guild's fight mattered to them, and to get it to exert pressure on Pulitzer. "It was: You can't just stand in front of your building and yell about your company," said Jeff Gordon, the leader of the guild local. "You've got to go out to other groups that would be concerned -- faith groups, politicians. Any group where people assemble and care about your community, that's where you've got to go and talk about it in terms they can appreciate....Get your people to get out and talk. It's hard, but it convinced us to get off our butts." The guild won, and the Post-Dispatch remains a union shop to this day.

Beyond these individual fights, Tucker kept up his broader campaign as a dissident reformer, helping found issue-based coalitions such as Labor Campaign for Single Payer Healthcare and U.S. Labor Against the War and groups such as the Center for Labor Renewal, which held "solidarity schools" where Tucker preached his vision for the movement.

He was unimpressed by upheavals in the upper echelons of the movement, such as the split of several large unions from the AFL-CIO in 2005, led by Andy Stern, leader of the Service Employees International Union. As Tucker saw it, this was merely a shuffling of deck chairs on a doomed liner--or rather, a shuffling of ship captains with little regard for empowering those in the decks below.

As he put in his 2005 speech at the Sorbonne, at a conference on U.S. social movements, "Not part of the leader-led debate is the more fundamental question of the 'culture' of unionism in America today. Can the present debate really make a difference if it avoids an objective examination of what the labor movement should stand for – its larger social purposes, the education and activism of its base, and the democratic principles that must underpin its governance?"

The speech grew more fiery as he went on.

None of the proposals from the big unions "raises the banner of a new social vision to counter the market-driven economic and political stratification of American life." Looking back at labor's decline, he declared that it "went through the 1970s looking more like a guest whose invitation to the 'big party' had been rescinded than the respected voice of the American working class." Labor should have recognized the crisis of its declining membership and made a "significant effort to organize all people that are broadly included in the nation's working class." Instead, in the 1980s, union leaders were on "cruise control": "rank and file workers were now under a relentless and accelerating attack, and the remote, relatively comfortable upper echelon could not feel the pain."

By the speech's end, Tucker turned sweeping: "Overcoming the crisis starts with the introduction of a new vision of a just society. A nascent left within labor and community organizations can help supply that vision and bring important organizing, strategic, and tactical, and coalition building skills to a resurgent struggle for justice.

"But the current labor leaders are debating process, not direction. Their arguments are narrow and bureaucratically ministerial.

"What's also missing in today's debate among the union heads is anger, a deep and resolute class anger. Some leaders seem more angry with each other than with the perpetrators of the crisis they claim to want to solve. Many are in denial. And much of the debate represents an exercise in unyielding parochialism."

What labor needed is a "clear definition of our generic enemy. Some have named a few rogue corporations or particularly bad employers, but that does not describe the concerted nature of this sustained attack...Taking on Wal-Mart, and 'Wal-Martization' is worth doing, but it's just one part of capital's offensive.

"Ours is a crisis with a million victims. Those victims are being attacked by enemies – corporate and governmental – with a shared ideology. Labor should not shrink from condemning that ideology."

Could Americans today really rally to such a message? Yes, he argued. "Today many American workers are cynical and collectively do have reduced expectations. They know all too well that their quality of life is under attack, and, for many of them, that unionism has not held up its end in the struggle....But that does not mean now...that the

willingness to fight back, the urgency to resist injustice, and the desire for dignity have been driven from the consciousness of our sisters and brothers. They have it in them to engage in struggle when they perceive the struggle has immediacy in their lives, when the injustices are real, and when they know they will not be alone.”

Tucker gave a last iteration of his call to the Labor Notes conference this past May, which he addressed by video link after receiving the conference’s Troublemakers award.

His face was hollowed by cancer, but he spoke emphatically to the camera:

“The journey has been bumpy and the struggle for justice and working class dignity never takes a holiday. As an old civil rights veteran told me in the 1960s regarding our classist and racist enemies, ‘Always remember son, they be scheming while you be dreaming.’ It was true then and no less true today.

“The enemy of the working class is relentless and we have to be no less relentless in our response, and strategic. Beware of the false prophets in our ranks who call for accommodation and appeasement as an answer. Our ultimate strength is the organization of our members and the collective deployment of them strategically and tactically. An informed and well-organized rank and file is at the center of every victorious struggle. I have an uncompromising faith in the rank and file’s capacity to respond when the truth is shared.”

Tucker died five months later; he was advising unions up until his health collapsed at the very end. And it was hard not to hear the echo of his warnings in the news of the past few weeks: it was the home base of the union that cast him out, the UAW, that absorbed the right-to-work blow; one of the states where Republicans have been inspired to follow suit is Missouri, site of Tucker’s first big victory 35 years ago.

Counterfactual conjectures are just that, but one can’t help but wonder whether unions, and the country’s working and middle class, would be in any better position today had labor recognized earlier just how powerful the challenge to its existence was, how deleterious the consequences of its decline would be in contributing to the stagnation of wages and rise in inequality that have defined our economy for the past three decades.

Indeed, it is not hard to see Tucker’s influence in the remaining pockets where labor does retain real influence, such as the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, on the west coast, and the Chicago Teachers Union, which employed an unusually rank-and-file-driven approach in its recent showdown with Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

But Tucker’s legacy offers a reminder that ire over the plight of the struggling working and lower middle class – Mitt Romney’s 47 percent – need not turn to apathy or resignation. It can also serve to rally and bind.

It may not be the labor movement as presently constituted that leads that rallying – that’s a subject for another day – but the ire and desire for a better lot will be out there among American workers, by the millions, looking for someone to harness it as Jerry Tucker never stopped trying to do for the past thirty-five years.

U.S. Military Divorcing Afghanistan For Hotter, Sexier War



3 January 2013 by G-Had, The Duffel Blog

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN – The United States Military and Afghanistan will be getting a divorce after eleven years of war so the U.S. can pursue a hotter, sexier war, senior government officials have told The Duffel Blog.

The pending divorce is mutual.

The U.S. Military has already released a statement saying, “While we appreciate all the love and support Afghanistan has given us, particularly in justifying our defense budget, after over a decade together conflicts sometimes just get boring and stale. We’re not a one-war kind of service.”

The U.S. Military has also cited irreconcilable problems with Afghanistan’s in-law Pakistan.

Afghanistan has listed its own complaints: that the U.S. Military has a wandering eye for “any younger war that doesn’t need as much work done. We don’t know how the Israelis and Palestinians have managed to keep theirs going for sixty-five years.”

Afghanistan has also complained that the U.S. Military is frequently inattentive to their needs, forgetting their anniversary and giving it inappropriate gifts.

“Last year for our anniversary the Air Force gave us a high-altitude all-weather air superiority fighter,” a tearful Afghanistan told reporters. “Our war doesn’t even have air combat!”

According to Afghanistan, these problems were evident right from the outset of their relationship.

“Our war was always a sham,” Afghanistan complained.

“Even during our honeymoon we caught the U.S. Military looking at pictures of Iraq! They swore it had something to do with 9/11, but after just two years they moved in together. After we confronted them, they kept promising to break it off and we naively believed them, but they didn’t finally end it until only a year ago.”

While Iraq is no longer a factor in their relationship and is in its own controversial relationship with Iran, both the U.S. Military and Afghanistan stressed that their divorce would not impact their other wars, Yemen and Somalia, plus adopted-war Libya. Adoption paperwork on a fourth war, Syria, was halted in mid-2012.

The latest argument was brought on when Afghanistan overheard the U.S. Military bragging about the hot new amphibious assault ship it was producing, and found several provocative pictures of Chinese air defenses in its desk.

When Afghanistan confronted the U.S. Military, the U.S. claimed it was only studying Chinese air defenses because of their connection to terrorism.

Pressed to explain further, the U.S. Military stuttered, “the... uh... Chinese... Islamic... Terrorist... Guys...” and left the room as quickly as possible.

The U.S. Military saw a similar war with Vietnam fall apart in the 1960s over accusations that the U.S. hadn’t gotten over its true love, fighting Soviet tank divisions in the Fulda Gap.

Troops Invited:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

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OCCUPATION PALESTINE

Stormtroopers Attack Villagers In Occupied Palestine At Midnight: “After A Long Night, The Settlers Returned In The Morning With Dogs”



“A Red Crescent driver was driving supplies” “Every window of the vehicle was smashed and Abdul Kareem suffered blows to head from the stones”

January 1, 2013 International Solidarity Movement, Qusra, Occupied Palestine

While people around the world were celebrating the start of a new year the Palestinian town of Qusra in the West Bank was under attack. Around midnight settlers entered the agricultural outskirts of the town, uprooting approximately 250 trees.

Reports from some of the villagers spoke of the Israeli Army lighting parachute flares over the olive groves to assist the vandals.

After a long night, the settlers returned in the morning with dogs.

An elderly woman was home alone when she heard stones begin to pelt the outside of her house.

Angry voices screamed “come out Arab men, come out and fight”.

They trashed the tractor parked in her driveway, smashing its windows. Large stones built up on her rooftop, still visible when ISM visited her a few hours later.



“20 people were treated on the scene for inhalation of tear gas”

The woman called for help and villagers responded by marching en-mass towards her house.

At this point the settlers fled to a hilltop above the town and the Israeli Occupation Force moved in.

Angry clashes followed between the villagers and the Army causing significant casualties: at least 5 people were hospitalised; approximately 20 people were treated on the scene for inhalation of tear gas; around 15 sustained injuries from rubber bullets.

While the Army engaged villagers in Qusra, reports came that the settlers had moved on to the village of Jalud.

They set up a makeshift roadblock between Jalud and Qusra, terrorising Palestinian cars moving between the two villages.

At around 3pm a Red Crescent driver was driving supplies between Jalud and Qusra when he encountered the roadblock.

The driver – Abdul Kareem Hassan – had his vehicle stopped and was pelted with numerous large stones by the settlers.

Every window of the vehicle was smashed and Abdul Kareem suffered blows to head from the stones. By the time he was able to reach Qusra he was bleeding from the head and suffering respiratory stress.

A local resident told ISM he could not remember a week in the last two years when Qusra did not suffer from some kind of settler initiated aggression.

Today's attack, however, was particularly severe and an unwelcome start to the new year for the people of Qusra.

Occupation Army Dogs Attack 93-Year-Old Palestinian Woman

January 3, 2013 Al-Akhbar English

Israeli army dogs attacked a 93-year-old Palestinian woman as an undercover unit raided the West Bank city of Jenin on Thursday morning, according to Ma'an news agency.

The agents were dressed as Palestinians and backed up by the army when they staged an incursion into the city's industrial zone.

The raid is the latest in a string of Israeli attacks on Palestinian towns in the West Bank. On Tuesday, Israeli soldiers disguised as vegetable vendors invaded the northern West Bank town of Tamoun and fired ammunition at residents.

Amneh Hisnawi was alone in her house when soldiers stormed her home and dogs belonging to security personnel attacked her. She was sent to an Israeli hospital for treatment.

Fadi Ijawi, 23, was wounded in the leg by a live bullet and taken to a Palestinian hospital, a Ma'an reporter said. Dozens also suffered from tear gas inhalation, the reporter added.

Zionist Regime Gives Medal Of Honor To Soldier Who Killed Deaf Kid

January 1, 2013 Palestinian Information Center

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM —

The Inspector General of the Israeli occupation Police, Yohanan Danino, granted the Israeli soldier who killed the youth Muhammad Salaymeh a medal of honor.

The Israeli soldier had shot Martyr Salaymeh, 17, in mid-December last year after he had not responded to her call, as he suffered hearing impairment.

Yohanan Danino commended the ability of the soldier to "successfully" deal with the situation, according to his claims.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in the city of al-Khalil had condemned the killing of the martyr Salaymeh.

“The Tyrant Assad Besieges Palestinian Refugee Camp For 11th Day”

“The Camp Remains Under Constant Bombardment By The Syrian Army”

January 2, 2013 Middle East Monitor

A Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Damascus has entered its eleventh day under siege by pro-Assad forces. A senior member of the Hamas political bureau, Izzat Al-Risheq, has urged the Syrian government to lift the military blockade on Al-Yarmouk Camp.

"No medical aid, food, flour or oil has been allowed into the camp," said Mr. Al-Risheq on his Facebook page yesterday. "This has exacerbated the suffering of the people during the cold winter weather."

He described the situation in Al-Yarmouk as "disastrous" and confirmed to local media sources that the camp remains under constant bombardment by the Syrian army.

"We call on the regime to put the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian refugees above other concerns, and to allow food, medicine and fuel to be allowed in as a matter of urgency," he added.

World Class Stupid Cruelty Or World Class Cruel Stupidity? Occupation Border Guards Seize Trophy Of Palestinian Child Who

Won Second Prize In Intelligent Mental-Arithmetic Competition: She Is “Questioned For More Than Five Hours” By Israeli “Intelligence” “Israeli Soldiers Said That The Trophy Was Made Of Steel And Could Not Pass Through Without Tests”



Dania Al Ja'abari after she took back her trophy seized earlier by the Israeli military forces on Allenby Bridge. Pictures By Nasouh Nazzal

January 1, 2013 By Nasouh Nazzal, Correspondent; Gulf News

Ramallah: As she travelled home from her triumph, Israeli border guards have seized the trophy of a Palestinian school girl who won an international competition in Malaysia.

Eleven years old Dania Husni Al Ja'abari was stopped by the Israeli intelligence on the Allenby Bridge (which separates the West Bank from Jordan) and questioned for more than five hours.

As a result, Dania, her accompanying family members and her trainer missed the central celebration organized in Ramallah to mark the girl's prestigious victory in an international competition.

Dania, from the city of Hebron, has shown recognized mental capabilities which enable her to solve multiple and complicated mathematical questions.

Dania came second in the Intelligent Mental-Arithmetic Competition 2012 and was rewarded with a trophy and handed an appreciation letter.

"It was a horrible experience to spend about five hours in interviews with Israeli intelligence officers," she said commenting on her first international participation.

"Those extended interviews have delayed our arrival to the central celebrations organized to mark my victory," she told Gulf News.

"The Israelis prevented me from crossing the Allenby Bridge holding my trophy in hand, which is the symbol to my victory. The Israelis denied me and family joy and happiness," she said.

Israeli soldiers said that the trophy was made of steel and could not pass through without tests.

The Palestinian Department of Borders and Crossings in Jericho was notified of the Israeli seizure of the trophy.

The Palestinian officials of the department referred to their Israeli counterparts who handed the trophy to the Palestinian side few days later and Dania's family was contacted to approach Jericho and receive the trophy.

"It was still a happy but incomplete moment to recover my lost trophy," said Dania, who insists in participating in the competition once again in two years to attempt to reach first place - which was won by a Palestinian girl Areej Al Madhoun, from the Gaza Strip.

Husni Al Ja'abari, Dania's father said his girl is special in solving complicated mathematical questions in a short time. "Dania is gifted with a special ability to solve complex mathematical problems and this ability became clear when the girl was in the kindergarten," he told Gulf News.

Dania has participated in many local mathematical and chess competitions where she has repeatedly won first place.

In the Malaysia competition, Dania was able to solve 157 complicated mathematical questions in eight minutes.

Danai was one of the 22 Palestinian school students, 12 from the West Bank and 10 from the Gaza Strip, who took part in the international mental and mathematical competition in Malaysia.

"Danai will receive better training during the coming couple of years. I am sure Dania will score the first place in the competition," said Dr. Ammar Al Zaatari, Dania's trainer. He said that Dania's abilities will improve even more as the girl can solve mathematical questions faster than the calculator.

He said that despite the fact that Danai is still in grade five, she has a unique ability to handle complex mathematics and that she is known for this ability all over Hebron.

[To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to: www.rafahtoday.org The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."]

GOT A COMMENT?

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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Demonstration In Fallujah Against The Iraqi Government



Protesters chant slogans against the Iraqi government as they wave national flags during a demonstration in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 4, 2013. About 3,000 people gathered in the northern city of Mosul, where they called for the release of female prisoners and to end to what they say are random arrests of Sunnis. Among their chants were: "Down, down with al-Maliki" and "No to sectarianism." In the ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk, about 1,000 protested to demand the release of detainees. Protests were also reported in Tikrit. (AP Photo)

CLASS WAR REPORTS

**Spanish City's Locksmiths Refusing To Assist Bankers With Evictions:
"De Carlos Says He And His Fellow Locksmiths Decided Last Month That**

They Could No Longer Ignore Such Suffering”

02 January, 2013 PRI

Spanish banks looking to foreclose on delinquent mortgage owners in and around Pamplona will no longer have the assistance of the community's locksmiths.

Last month, they announced they would no longer change the locks on people banks want to evict.

In Spain, in 2012, more than 50,000 families were evicted from their homes when they failed to pay their rent or mortgage.

As the year wound down, a handful of people committed suicide after learning they would be evicted.

Now, in Pamplona, a group of experts who help carry out the evictions has said 'No more.' Those experts? Locksmiths.

It's a pretty ingenious way to stop evictions, really.

The police might come and drag debtors out. But if no one changes the locks on the apartment, the bank can't repossess it, because the evictees can get back in.

And the legal proceedings to get them out again would take months, even years.

Banks and government authorities have been evicting an average of two families a day in recent months in and around Pamplona.

Locksmiths like Iker de Carlos are hoping to put an end to it. De Carlos says in this small city, the dozen or so locksmiths often know the people they have to lock out.

De Carlos told a local TV station that locksmiths worked often with the police and bailiffs, evicting families or elderly folks who barely had time to get their pants on before being put out on the street.

De Carlos says he and his fellow locksmiths decided last month that they could no longer ignore such suffering.

"We're people," he said, "and as people we can't continue carrying out evictions when people are killing themselves."

De Carlos was referring to the suicide of a woman last fall, outside Pamplona. As authorities, including Judge Juan Carlos Mediavilla, were arriving to evict her, she jumped from her balcony.

Just after her death Judge Mediavilla spoke out publicly.

“We can’t let economic problems devolve into tragedies like this,” Mediavilla said.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE MILITARY?



U.S. soldier in Bejjia village Iraq, Feb. 4, 2008. (AP Photo/Maya Alleruzzo)

Forward Military Resistance along, or send us the email address if you wish and we’ll send it regularly with your best wishes. Whether in Afghanistan or at a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: Military Resistance, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657.

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.”

Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

GOT A COMMENT?

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org: Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Same address to unsubscribe.

Vietnam GI: Reprints Available

Vietnam GI

January, 1969

Free to Servicemen

"... he threw his rifle at his Commanding Officer..."



WHEN HAWKS RETIRE

All of us who've had our "free" trips to Sunny Nam and Sonno Korra shouldn't feel guilty about accepting such "gifts" from the Government. Lots of hawk politicians are taking Government trips too. Of course, their trips are a little bit different.

Take Senator Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), the Senate Judiciary Committee highest whose retirement in January was speeded up by graft scandals. The good Senator decided that as a sacrifice to his country he would give himself IDY to Europe. The reason was to "get firsthand information on foreign aid and military assistance programs." Doubtless, that's why he took his wife along.

Of special interest was his visit to

Switzerland, which neither gets US aid nor wants any. It doesn't really make any difference, since as soon as Senator Long returned from his "fact-finding mission" he retired from the Senate, thus depriving our Congress of all his "facts" (mostly on nightclubs and tizzy hotels).

Going to and from Europe Long travelled on Senate funds, but while on IDY there, he economized by using US military aircraft, cars and chauffeurs to get around. The Pentagon ordered the res car rolled out around the world. Nothing too good for a retiring hawk politician. As the saying goes, in America we're all equal... only some are more equal than others!

As we go to press we learn that the government has finally agreed on the shape of the table and seating arrangements for the Paris talks. Now that everyone is seated and comfortable, maybe we can expect further "breakthroughs." The grim fact is that while the government hawks are jiving in Paris, thousands of our buddies are still dying in Nam. In fact, since they began talking last May 7,000 GIs have been killed in action.

Talks or no talks, the only solution is to get the hell out of Nam, immediately. Stop talking and start shipping us home.

The next issue of VGI will discuss the Paris talks in greater detail. By that

Below is an interview with a Marine who didn't like the war and figured out why. This guy is a Platoon SGT with five years in the Green Machine, and over a year in Nam, mostly in long range recon with Charlie Company, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion. VGI spoke to him while he was on leave awaiting his second Nam tour. Since he doesn't ETS until 1973 we've left out his name.

VGI: How did you feel about the war when you went over there. Did your feelings change?

A: When I first went over there, I thought it would be a great thing in pay, and a great new experience of being in war. I really thought it was going to be something different. But then I got put on some of these patrols and I got to see the people and got to talk to the people. This was the big thing that finally changed me. I finally saw that it wasn't worth while, and that they actually don't want our help because it actually isn't help.

VGI: Did you have any contacts with the Vietnamese with the people?

A: There was a place called Ben Son and for a while I was stationed down at the bridge there. This is where I lived, ate, slept, drank, everything. There were houses right next to my bunker, we had an address for ours and we gave everybody else addresses. We explained to the people what the addresses were and they got all shook up about the whole thing, wow, they got addresses now.

VGI: What was it like living there?

A: We lived with them, we shared our food with them. They used to really go for the little treats in the cration packs, the gum and the cration cigarettes and everything, and in turn they'd bring back bananas. There was this one girl, her name was—I can't think of her name now—I had her picture but I lost it. This one girl, she really stands out in my mind because she used to come over and bring us beer every day and in turn, all she expected from us was the empty boxes of c-rations, that's all she wanted, the empty boxes. But then we started putting little things in the empty boxes and told her we wanted her to have them.

VGI: What would she want with the empty boxes?

A: I don't know, the Vietnamese people, they could take an empty can of nothing and make something out of it. She made me a soapbar which she had made out of a c-ration tin. She had pounded it out with a nail and a hammer, it had a little budha on it and I wore it all the time. I actually got to feel naked after I lost it.

But yet, later on, during the Tet holidays, the Viet Cong came in and burned out half of the village, and the mamas naturally went in pursuit. In order to stop them, the VC took this girl and they cut off her breasts. She was brought up to the hospital and later she died.

VGI: Did the brass give you any static about living with the Vietnamese?

A: The incident when I almost got into trouble was, there was a convoy of about 12 to 14 trucks. I think it was. We had a whole bunch of plywood on it and we took this plywood over to a village, chief in Ben Son. He was one of

the elders. We dropped off something like 14 sheets of plywood. Naturally, when we got back, there was one truckload of plywood missing, and they asked where it was. They later found out that I had given it to this village chief, not for my own good relations with him, but because there was times when we didn't get resupplied at our observation point, and they brought us food, so we gave them something else in return.

interview

VGI: What are some of the things you saw and did that led you into deciding in the middle of Nam not to fight anymore?

A: Well, I saw times when COL Bull Fisher, when he would tell his men to dismantle their personnel-carrying flame-throwers, take them out on a company sleep and put them back together once they got out. He went into a village and told them, "Are there any Viet Cong here?" The village chief naturally said, "No, because he knew that if he said yes, he didn't know what'd happen to him. Then COL Fisher said, "Well, if there is any Viet Cong in this village, we'll show you what's going to happen." He sent one of his flame men up to the house, he didn't check to see if there was anybody in it or not. Later we found out there was a woman in there who was real sick, she couldn't move or anything. She was burned to death. It was terrible. And seeing guys being carried in in ponchos. A full-grown man weighed about two pounds after he was brought in as a sack of raw flesh or something like that.

VGI: Did you see any other incidents like that?

A: There was this little village just out of Ben Son where we bought our rice and got our ice. It's not poetry, it's really true. It was just this small village, maybe 16 or 17 houses. It was a "gray to white" village, off and on there'd be Viet Cong visiting the area. No hostilities at all, they'd just go in there to be resupplied. Yet one day, they found out that VC were coming into that village and they called "Puff," "Puff" came over and invaded the whole village down. I think maybe three people lived out of the whole thing. One was a little baby about two years old whose mother and father was gone.

One of the guys sort of adopted this kid, this little two year old. He took this kid real close. When we went on R and K we brought him back toys and trucks and things like that. It was really something, because they don't get too many trucks over there. We'd round up a few dump trucks and stuff like that from Hong Kong. They were really surprised to see the new toys. I mean, the toys they play with, old c-ration cans and stuff like that are their toys. They're a fascinating people. If you just have an opportunity to see them, to get to know them. They're really great.

VGI: How do you think they feel about us?

A: This one incident—I know of the letter one month Vietnamese who was down south wrote to his brother up north who was intent on coming down. They're really great.

Continued on page 8

Edited by Vietnam Veteran Jeff Sharlet from 1968 until his death, this newspaper rocked the world, attracting attention even from Time Magazine, and extremely hostile attention from the chain of command.

The pages and pages of letters in the paper from troops in Vietnam condemning the war are lost to history, but you can find them here.

Military Resistance has copied complete sets of Vietnam GI. The originals were a bit rough, but every page is there. Over 100 pages, full 11x17 size.

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